

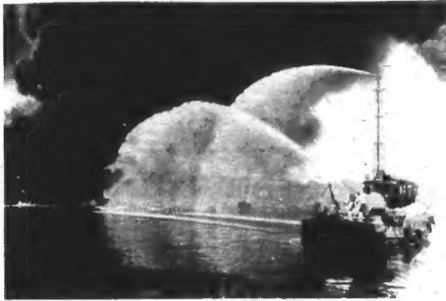


INFORMATION SERVICE
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FAITH

PALESTINE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT
December 5, 1968

Karameh Battle Revived



Fateh Rockets Haifa Tanks

HAIFA - Fateh rockets roared like fuel storage tanks in east Haifa Nov. 21, sending flames and smoke leaping over Haifa Bay. A military spokesman for the Palestinian Armed Struggle Command said.

The explosions caused by the direct rockets rockets hit the port city at 9:40 p.m., local. Flames and additional explosions continued until the following day.

It was the fifth major Fateh operation in Haifa this year and the third within a month. It also came only 24 hours after Zionist authorities announced they had smashed a Palestinian "sabotage ring responsible for recent blasts in Haifa."

Oil installations in the port city of Haifa have so far been the target of two major Fateh attacks June 24, August 18, Nov.

14 and Nov. 21. On Oct. 22-23 five Fateh bomb blasts in 24 hours rocked residential quarters in Haifa as a warning against continuation of Zionist policy to blow up the houses of Palestinian Arab civilians. The Israeli authorities admitted 52 casualties in the Oct. 22-23 explosions.

Unable again to conceal the Nov. 21 Fateh attack on Haifa oil installations, Israel Radio reported that two tanks were hit directly and flames were trying to put out the blaze while army units pressed a hunt in the

area for "suspects."

Israeli police officials said a night watchman sighted and fired on a car leaving the scene of the fire, but the car escaped unscathed.

Fateh rockets ripped the Haifa fuel tanks only 24 hours after Israel announced in Haifa she had arrested 21 Palestinian Arabs in police raids culminating in the rounding up of six men in Acre. A Haifa police spokesman claimed that those arrested in Acre were "responsible for recent blasts in Haifa."

In an atmosphere reminiscent of al-Karameh battle, Lebanese civilians and artillery units joined Fateh and other Palestinian commands in successfully thwarting an Israeli helicopter-borne attack on South Lebanon Dec. 3.

Licking their wounds, the enemy troops, estimated at 400, withdrew while dropping smoke bombs to cover their heavy losses. They officially confessed only six casualties, including the death of one of the commanding officers of the helicopter-borne raid at the Air-ush area, on the slopes of snow-capped Mount Hermon.

The spokesman for the Palestinian Armed Struggle Command said 100 more casualties were nine dead (six from the sea and three from Fateh) and 15 injured (eight from Fateh and five from the sea). The spokesman said several Lebanese civilians, including a woman were injured.

The spokesman said the enemy paved the way for the helicopter-borne attack with intermittent heavy artillery fire against the Air-ush area, starting 5:30 a.m., Dec. 3, and until 8:15 a.m., when enemy artillery fire was intensified to cover the areas of Kfar Shubay, Habbayeh and Wadi Asaf. The commandos returned the fire until 8:10 a.m.

Helicopter-borne enemy paratroopers were landed in the area at 8:15 a.m. A violent clash between the Palestinian frontier fighters and the enemy paratroopers followed 15 minutes later. The commandos were able to gain full control of the battle, forcing the enemy to send at 11:00 a.m. a new wave of helicopter-borne reinforcements which in turn came under heavy commando fire.

The enemy started his retreat under heavy artillery and smoke screen in a move to evacuate the area completely by 1:00 p.m., leaving behind weapons and ammunition but carrying his dead and wounded.

Tareq Ali Denied US Visa

WASHINGTON - The State Department blocked Dec. 3 a visit to the United States by Tareq Ali, the Palestinian British student leader who was to deliver the keynote address at a convention on the Palestine Revolution opening Dec. 5 at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Ali, editor of Black Dwarf and officer and contributor to the recently published The New Revolutionary, was invited by the Association of Arab-American University Graduates, Inc. to deliver the keynote speech opening its Second Annual Convention. The 5-7-77 convention at Wayne State University is on the Palestine Revolution: Its International, Social and Cultural Dimensions.

Ali's speech was to be on "The Palestine revolution and Wars of National Liberation."

A lawyer for the association said the State Department's action was part of the U.S. Administration's effort to suppress points of view at variance with its policies.

U.S. officials claimed they were denying the visa to Ali for his prominent participation in an antiwar demonstration Nov. 15 outside the U.S. embassy in London.

Jews Protest Zionist Policy

JERUSALEM - About 500 Jewish people, mostly students, staged Nov. 25 a silent protest demonstration outside the Knesset (Parliament) building to condemn the Zionist policy of collective punishment against Palestinian Arabs.

A three man delegation, representing the Jewish demonstrators, was allowed to present a signed petition to the office of the Knesset speaker.

The demonstration was held as police persecution on a hill overlooking the Knesset building, following a recent statement by the Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan, which said all Palestinian civilians who helped or failed to report Palestinian commandos, were the ones of an incident, would also be punished.

ACRE - Two Fateh freedom fighters blew themselves up Nov. 21 in their own car, loaded with explosives they intended to use in "Operation Hailstorm" in Haifa, when Israeli troops fought with them on the entrance to the town of Acre on the Mediterranean coast and 20 miles north of Haifa.

The two heroes are Ahmad Mohammed Bakhser, 28 and Omar Hussein Massoud, 21.

Other members of the same Fateh squad made it to Haifa and planted explosives in Haifa Haasrmat and at a petrol station at the other end of the port city.

The dramatic explosion killed or wounded an undetermined number of Israeli troops and damaged neighboring buildings.

Shortly before midnight, the two Fateh heroes had set out to Haifa from their village, Maid el-Kurum, 10 miles east of Acre. They succeeded in breaking through an Israeli patrol which tried to intercept them on the outskirts of the old crusader city of 34,000. The patrol caught up with them however near the Jewish quarter at the entrance of the ancient town, where they blew themselves up in their explosive-laden Volkswagen.

Israeli occupation troops carried out searches in Maid el-Kurum and made an undetermined number of arrests there.

The incident heightened tensions in Acre, where earlier several hundred Zionists tried to storm the old city where Palestinian Arabs live.

The march by the Zionist group who were demanding the restoring of military government in Arab areas (which had been in effect from 1948 to 1966) followed the Nov. 30 announcement of the arrest in Acre of alleged local Fateh members on suspicion of being responsible for a series of guerrilla attacks in the Haifa area.

The fact that a Jewish woman in her late 20's, the wife of one of the arrested Palestinian Arabs, had also been taken into custody on suspicion of sheltering and aiding, increased the Zionist group's wrath.

In a Zionist demonstration Saturday night, Nov. 23, before the explosion, a Palestinian Arab on a motorcycle was stopped and beaten up by roaming Zionist hoodlums.

The angry Zionist gangs completely lost their mind on the morning of Nov. 23, a few hours after the car explosion, and marched on the Palestinian Arab quarters of the town.

Worried Palestinian shopkeepers pulled down their shut-

ters and restaurants closed in the Arab quarter. Israeli police dispersed young Palestinians in the city gathering to confront the onslaught, arming themselves with knives and clubs to resist the impending Zionist incursion.

An Israeli policeman who attempted to arrest a Zionist hoodlum assaulting a Palestinian in turn set upon by the Zionist crowd.



Omar Massoud

Ahmad Mohammed Bakhser

Swiss Group Supports Fateh

The Information Bulletin of the Study Group on the Middle East which is headquartered in Geneva (General Secretary Georges Vaucher) carried the following commentary in its 18th edition of Nov. 7:

We shall confine ourselves to remark:

1. That the article of Mr. Rodgkin on the harshness of the occupation regime imposed on Palestine by Israel only confirms the numerous testimonies recorded by the Experts Group of the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, the commission which was denied access into occupied territories by the Israeli authorities.

2. That, *The Times*, by asserting in its editorial entitled "To Be Fair to Both" that "it is fair for the Jews to have a national state," seems to admit that the late Lord Balfour and the United Nations Assembly had the right to create this state in Palestine, WITHOUT CONSULTING THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION. This explains the repatriation by the English desire of the resistance movement Fateh, which however was not taken seriously until it took up arms against the armed occupation of its homeland.

3. That, being the legitimate owners of the Palestinian territory, it is up to the Palestinian people to say under what conditions they accept the implantation, on their native land, of a Jewish colonization hailing in a major part from Poland, Russia, Germany and various other countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

By revivifying against the establishment of a racist and professional Jewish state while accepting that the Jews having come to Palestine shall coexist freely with the Moslem and Christian Palestinians in a secular and democratic state without any distinction as to race or religion, the resistance organization Fateh proves its broad-mindedness and its desire for peace.

4. In its issue of October 24, 1969, the weekly publication "Fateh" reports the more recent case of torture of the young Palestinian, Miss Latifa Bannari, at Ramleh Prison.

Can't 'Amnesty International' investigate the genuineness of this accusation?

Study Group on the Middle East
Rue Pedro-Meylan 1
(angle 5, av. Kriegl)
1208 Geneva, Suisse.

Acheson Opposed The Establishment Of Israel

In his new book, *Present at the Creation: My Years at the State Department*, former Secretary of State Dean Acheson bares for the first time his opposition to the establishment of the Israeli state in "Arab Palestine" (Acheson's own expression). The differences over the Palestine question marked his only major disagreement with President Truman.

"I did not share the President's view on the Palestine question to the pressing and desperate plight of great numbers of displaced Jews in Eastern Europe. The numbers that could be absorbed by Arab Palestine without creating a grave problem would be inadequate, and to transplant the country into a Jewish state capable of receiving a million Jewish immigrants would vastly exacerbate the political problems and (under) not only America but all Western interests in the Near East. From Justice Brandeis, whom I revered, and Felix Frankfurter, my intimate friend, I had learned to understand, but not to share, the mystical emotion of the Jews to return to Palestine and the Diaspora. In urging Zionism as an American Government policy, they had allowed, so I thought, their emotion to obscure the totality of American interest."

This book marks the first public pronouncement in this vein by an important American official since James Forrestal.

Palestinian Resistance Refuses Tutelage

Violence and armed struggle in occupied Palestine were imperative to bring the Palestinian Revolution to triumphant birth and now that this birth has been completed, the Palestinian Revolution and Fateh if particular will not accept tutelage from anybody in any form.

Violence and armed struggle in occupied Palestine were imperative to bring the Palestinian Revolution to triumphant birth and now that this birth has been completed, the Palestinian Revolution and Fateh in particular will not accept tutelage from anybody in any form.

These were the salient remarks in two lectures delivered by officials of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fateh, to packed audiences at the American and Arab universities in Beirut Nov. 23 and Dec. 1, respectively.

Both speakers reiterated that the Palestinian Revolution wanted a strong, independent and sovereign Lebanon to stand by its side against the common Zionist enemy. Both said the Palestinian Revolution was equally determined not to allow anybody to obstruct the path of its struggle for liberation.

Both reiterated also Fateh's refrain from attacking targets outside the occupied homeland, particularly civilian targets because "we regard Israel as the heart of imperialism and we want to lift it at the heart of imperialism in the area" and the Palestinian Revolution does not need to make itself known to the world anywhere.

The two speakers also condemned attempts to convert the liberation struggle into small commando organizations under one pretext or the other.

Here is a summary of the stages through which the Palestinian Revolution has gone since its inception as presented by one of the speakers:

Bringing the Palestinian Revolution to triumphant birth necessitated recourse to violence and armed struggle in occupied Palestine. In the words of Frantz Fanon - National liberation, national renaissance, the restoration of nationhood to the people; whatever may be the headings used or the new formulas introduced, DECOLONIZATION IS ALWAYS A VIOLENT PHENOMENON.

Fateh, which from 1958 to June of 1965 to launch its first commando operation against the Zionist colonial-settler project to divert the Jordan River waters after realizing that the Arab governments were not giving priority to the war for recovery of Palestine.

For two subsequent years, the members of the Palestinian Revolution undertook to rally the Palestinian masses to the cause

of liberation through armed struggle by launching guerrilla operations against the enemy with their right.

June 5, 1967, coincided with the anniversary of the revolutionary vanguard of Fateh to move into the newly-occupied West Bank in order to make history and turn a new leaf in the Palestinian struggle.

Fateh's decision to undertake such a move was made on August 28, 1967. It was immediately implemented at the expense of heroic sacrifices which cost the movement the loss, within three months, of 46 of its best men, including 39 officers. These were an elite group because they were trained and raised during periods of oppression and severe hardship.

At the end of 1967, Fateh considered that the three-month phase had achieved its purpose and that the revolution's success now depended on its ability to move from "THE PHASE OF DISRUPTION AND DESTRUCTION" TO "THE PHASE OF CREATING THE NECESSARY MILITARY SET-UP FOR LIBERATION."

Guerrilla war cannot achieve liberation but it is the cornerstone for building a popular liberation army. For this reason, Fateh decided to establish a secure base for its operations in the Agahar (Jordan Valley). Fateh's three-month experience in late 1967 had proved that a secure base cannot be established on the West Bank. In fact, a secure base implies that the revolutionaries can work in it openly and without interruption. It implies that it should be located amidst the masses but in contact with the enemy so that its members can learn warfare by actually practicing it. It also implies that it can be defended. Fateh realized that occupied Palestine constituted the actual battlefield rather than the secure base. The difficulties encountered in setting up the secure base in the Agahar were tremendous and were on the verge of leading to a confrontation between the Palestinian Revolution forces and the authorities in Jordan.

The solution to the crisis was suggested by the enemy himself in his attack on al-Ramleh on Thursday, March 21, 1968. The Palestinian commandos and the Jordan troops fought side by side to repel the enemy's onslaught on al-Ramleh town.

The decision to stay put at al-Ramleh, instead of withdrawing, was a decision which Fateh believed that it was necessary to retreat when the enemy advances; this was the case at al-Ramleh.

The battle of al-Ramleh enabled the Palestinian Revolution to set up the safe base in the Agahar, in the Jordan Valley, which was needed to build a popular army without delay.

While people were busy celebrating the victory of al-Ramleh, Fateh was pondering over the new problems confronting the revolution. In two weeks, the ranks of its freedom fighters grew from 728 to about 3,000 most of whom had both military and political awareness, military training, arms, medical supplies.

After al-Ramleh, the revolution embarked on the phase of founding the nucleus of the Palestinian popular army. Thousands of our men were sent for training abroad.

This advanced training of commandos limited our operations in occupied Palestine throughout the frustrating 1968 year. By early 1969, however, the Palestinian liberation struggle took new dimensions with some major operations as the Green Belt, Good Land, the Bayonets of Fateh, Diet Yassin, Farhan al-Badi etc., as well as the attacks in Haifa and the rocket attacks in Jerusalem.

Though we are proud of these operations, the most important accomplishment of the forces of the Palestinian Revolution has been the 11 breaches they succeeded, to the enemy's astonishment, in making through enemy minefields and electronic devices opposite Beisan. This proved the ability of the revolution to break and leap into occupied Palestine despite the enemy's efforts to seal off the occupied territory. This had paved the way for the major operations.

In a year and a half, the Palestinian Revolution was able to establish the secure base in the Agahar, to found the nucleus of the popular army, to secure the freedom of movement of the Palestinian masses in the Arab host countries, to foil plots against it, to prevent the liquidation of the Palestine Revolution and to build constructive army tactics.

Israeli Treatment Of Prisoners To Be Investigated

LONDON - Amnesty International said Tuesday it will send representatives to a host of Arab countries to follow up further information and evidence of Israel's treatment of Arab prisoners of war.

The organization, founded in 1961 to campaign for the release of political prisoners anywhere in the world, said in a report on Israeli treatment earlier this year "revealed a picture of a systematic pattern of ill treatment of prisoners in detention or under interrogation."

The international executive committee of Amnesty International considered that the results from the Israeli authorities to the report submitted in April "leaves many questions unanswered."

Editor's Note: The second in the series of three articles on "The Palestinian Revolution and the Jews" will appear in our next issue, No. 7. The first article in the series appeared in issue No. 5 of Nov. 20.

478 PASC Operations Launched In November

A total of 478 military operations were undertaken against the enemy in occupied Palestine during the month of November by the eight commando organizations annexed to the Palestinian Armed Struggle Command (PASC). This is against 454 operations in October, 429 in September and 480 in August. PASC includes Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Army, the Popular Forces, the Shu'ra, the Arab Liberation Front and three other groups of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The 478 operations in November, the overwhelming majority of which were carried out by Fatah, resulted in the loss or damage of 255 military vehicles; 130 barracks; 80 gun and machine gun emplacements; 40 bridges and railway culverts; 30 water lines and different installations.

PASC's military spokesmen said enemy casualties were very high but gave no numbers. He listed commando casualties as 11 killed and 4 injured, against 10 killed and 77 injured in October.

Following is a brief roundup of Fatah's major operations during November:

NOVEMBER 5: A special task force of Fatah commandos succeeded in placing timed incendiary bombs in the central storehouse of the cotton factory in Dehola, west of Ramat and southeast of Beer Sheva. A huge fire erupted in the adjacent storehouses. Enemy material losses were described as extremely high. Flames could still be seen at the site the following day.

NOVEMBER 7: Mortar attack on Naft Halikar settlement south of the Dead Sea, destroying vital installations. Other Fatah squads killed and wounded several enemy troops when they ambushed a trucked vehicle and a military jeep in the Beit Yusef and Shuwayer areas respectively, both in the northern Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 8: Fatah commandos mortar Israeli military camp and advanced post in the Minidasa region, in the central Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 8: Fatah commandos blow up crude oil pipeline north of Elit as well as a big section of the railway and a water pumping station in the occupied Gaza Strip.

NOVEMBER 10: Fatah explosive charge wrecks the Israeli Immigrant Absorption Center in Ashdod, central town of Jerusalem valley in north central Israel. During the same day, November 10, Fatah commandos launch heavy missile and mortar attacks on Israeli observation post in Maghara area as well as on Kahr-Ruppi settlement, both in the northern Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 11: Fatah commandos foil attempt by Israeli patrol to cross Jordan River into the east bank on the Abu Saida area. Enemy confesses one casualty, heavy mortar rained by Fatah on Yardenia settlement in the northern Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 12: Fatah and Arab Liberation Front commandos blast a 40-meter stretch of defensive fortifications, including a minefield, in the Umm Sedra region in the northern Jordan Valley, and ambush enemy patrol and trucked vehicle in Umm Yuta. Fatah freedom fighters kill two Israeli troops and injure three others in ambush near the New-Or Kidut. Fatah commandos also destroy an enemy troop carrier, killing all its occupants, in Tyrkmaniyah. Fatah snipers kill three Israeli troops - two in Tallit Moussa and one in Zor Shikim.

NOVEMBER 14: Fatah commandos blow up pipeline gathering system between Naft refinery and storage tanks.

NOVEMBER 15: Fatah freedom fighters launch rocket and mortar attack on enemy positions in the Shu'ar Hagha kibbutz in the Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 15: Fatah commandos launch heavy missile attack on enemy camp in Tallit Najjar, east of Jericho. Enemy confesses seven casualties. Another Fatah unit wipes out an enemy ambush. Fatah commandos also mortar Yardenia settlement in the northern Jordan Valley. Enemy admits six casualties.

NOVEMBER 15: Fatah and Arab Liberation Front forces launch a heavy attack on enemy artillery positions in Kib Shura in the central Jordan Valley. Another joint force shatters enemy headquarters and ambushes in Tyrkmaniyah.

NOVEMBER 15: Fatah freedom fighters silence Israeli firing posts at al-Ahadi project near Jericho. Fatah snipers kill three enemy troops in Jussaidiya.

NOVEMBER 20: Fatah commandos kill all members of one Israeli and patrol in the Yardenia area in the northern Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 21: Fatah commandos attack vital enemy camp in the Shuwayer area in the central Jordan Valley. During the same day, "The Volcano of Asafim" operation was carried out by Fatah commandos against petrol storage tanks on Shuwayer Coast south-east of Haifa port.

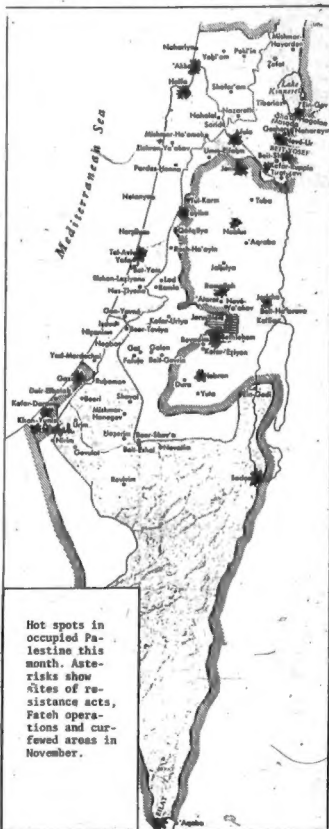
NOVEMBER 24: Fatah commandos wipe out an Israeli engineering corps post patrol in Beit Yusef settlement in the northern Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 25: Fatah commandos launch a missile attack on an enemy military position on Tallit Najjar in the central Jordan Valley. Another Fatah unit attacks the enemy's military headquarters in Minidasa in the central Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 26: Fatah freedom fighters attack enemy military positions in Al-Khazir area in the central Jordan Valley. Fatah

snipers kill five enemy soldiers in various parts of the northern Jordan Valley.

NOVEMBER 30: An enemy foot patrol in Zor al-Ramliyah was completely wiped out by Fatah commandos. Fatah snipers kill four Israeli soldiers in Jordan Valley.





Zionists Boost Gaza Terror

GAZA — Zionist terror in the occupied Gaza Strip continues but it has only helped intensify the heroic resistance of its Palestinian civilians.

On Nov. 18, Israeli occupation troops shot dead two Palestinians for reportedly "breaking the curfew" imposed on both Rafah and Gaza on Nov. 18 following a hand grenade attack on the Military Governor Col. Benjamin Beitav. (James Peron however reported in the Israeli Tribune on Nov. 30 that the areas are under curfew imposed as punishment because residents have refused to come forward with information about resistance incidents).

Schoolteachers "who are assumed to have seen" the men who threw grenades at Israeli patrols are prevented from doing business. This is in addition to the night curfew.

On Nov. 19, also, Palestinian resistance machine-gunned an Israeli vehicle at midnight wounding three Israelis. A curfew was imposed on Beit Hanun, near the scene of the ambush, and on neighboring Jabalia.

Earlier in the day a curfew was also put by the occupation army in Khan Younis following a grenade attack on occupation troops.

On Nov. 21, Israeli occupation troops set fire to the vegetable market in Gaza and blew up nine buildings near it.

Three days later, on Nov. 25, a 24-year-old girl student, Hal-

wa Mahmoud was killed instantly by the Israelis with a bullet in the head. Two other civilians, including a 4-year old boy, were injured seriously. The Israeli soldiers opened fire on the three civilians when a grenade was hurled at a patrol near Gaza City high school. The man who hurled the grenade managed to escape.

On Dec. 1, a United Nations spokesman in occupied Jerusalem announced that the 80 families of UN observers will be moved from their homes in the Gaza Strip because of increased tension there.

The spokesman said most of the 80 families would move to Jerusalem.

He said the removal of the families was decided "out of consideration for their welfare."

On Dec. 3, Gaza was linked to Israel's electricity grid despite objections by Mayor R. Alami who described the act as political. Workshops and light industries which recently acquired

modern machinery were unable to operate because of lack of power.

French Party Breaks Ties With Mapam

PARIS — France's Socialist United Party (PSU) announced Dec. 1 it was breaking off contacts with the Israeli Mapam Party because of disagreements over Israeli government policy.

The party, whose Secretary General Michel Rocard defeated former French Premier Maurice Coure de Marville in a by-election last October, also recognized the representative character of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The announcement from the PSU political leadership said the party was going to make a study of the Palestine problem.

PIERRE, DAKOTA — South Dakota Governor Frank Farnor told a press conference here Nov. 30 "I don't believe we would go on dividing these people (of Israel) — what they need to fight Arab aggression. They are a peaceful people, not apt to go killing for spite. They aren't going to use any arms we sell them to commit acts of aggression."

Israeli Statements...

Following is a self-explanatory series of recent statements by Zionist leaders of the settler state of Israel:

MOISE DAYAN

November 18: Only 140 houses have been built up in occupied territory since April 1. Demolitions also set the city of Jerusalem. (Jerusalem Counter-measures include NEIGHBORHOOD FULFILLMENT.)

December 1: The term neighborhood punishment is an incorrect description of Israeli policy in occupied territories. It is a minister of defense not a minister of terrorism.

GOLDA MEIR

November 18: The inhabitants of houses demolished by the security forces had harbored and aided Palestinian men who carried out acts of terrorism and murder.

November 28: Israel's policy had been and continued to be essentially a liberal one, almost without precedent in the history of military occupations.

ABRAHAM

November 27: We need ourselves ruling a community of 990, 000 which does not wish to be ruled by us.

MORIS V. HANIN

November 21: In Israel, life is peaceful and prosperous.

First Time In 21 Years Jews Supply Arms To Palestinians

TEL AVIV — Two young Israeli Jews have been killed on suspicion of "selling arms" to Palestinian Arabs, the Israeli police said Nov. 21.

It was believed to be the first such case in 21 years. The Jews, both 20, and not formally identified, were drafted and remained in jail for 15 days pending further investigation, the police added.

Police accused the men, residents of Kfar Sava, a small town just north of Tel Aviv, of selling three revolvers and one Karl Gustav sub-machinegun to the Palestinian Arabs in Tira village.

Six Palestinians also have been arrested in the case.

One newspaper said it was not unlikely the guns would have been used in "hostile action."

Police also detained the Jewish wife of an "Israeli Arab" (i.e., Palestinian Arab under Zionist occupation since 1949) from Acre, one of nine killed on Nov. 30 on suspicion of setting off explosive charges in Haifa.

40 Palestinians Jailed Each Week

JERUSALEM — Israeli official sources confirmed Nov. 28 and for the first time that "some 200" Palestinian Arabs and "about 110 Israeli Arabs" (i.e., Palestinian Arab under Zionist occupation since 1949) are now in the prison terms in Israeli jails.

The Israeli sources said the Palestinian prisoners include "a few dozen women."

"They said Israeli troops arrested an average of 30 to 40 'Israeli Arabs' each week."

Dr. Julius Mader, of East Germany, has set the number of Palestinian prisoners in the Zionist jails at 17,510 during the second half of the current year, mostly civilians arrested arbitrarily for suspicion to be in areas of espionage, or demonstrators, or others against occupation of their country. (For his report on Zionist prisons refer to "Fath" issue No. 8 of Nov. 15).

recently. The woman was held as an accessory.

The arrested Palestinians were accused of membership in Fath and were identified as follows:

1. Fawad Ahmad Hmir, 35
2. Fatahalla Mahmoud Sakka, 27
3. Abdallah Ibrahim Habboun, 23
4. Ramon Twilik Khalifa, 31
5. Mahmud Hussein Hassan, 24
6. Yousef Hassan Abu-Khatir, 22

Palestine Seminar To Be Held In Kuwait

The General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS) is planning to hold its second International Panel Discussion on Palestine tentatively in Kuwait next March.

Arrangements for all aspects of the intended panel are underway following preliminary contacts with the Kuwait Alumni Club.

This would be a follow up to the widely attended and successful First International Panel Discussion on Palestine which was held in Cairo March 30-April 6, 1965. A total of 100 countries were represented at the said panel through individual participants and international groups of students and popular organizations. Among the prominent figures attending the first panel were the late Yassir Arafat and Pierre Salvi of France, Karama Mena of India, Anthony Melling of England and Jose Meli of the Araba of Morocco.

The panel discussion will focus on the political and economic aspects of the Palestinian Revolution.

The sponsors would welcome suggestions from our readers particularly as to potential conference theme, address and brief background, and specific topics for discussion.

Institute for Palestine Studies' 1967 Year Book Offers Scientific Reference

The 1967 June war is retrospectively, though two years late, has been tackled from all aspects by a number of leading Arab scholars in the latest production of the Institute for Palestine Studies — the 1967 Palestine Year Book.

Well-documented, detailed, and scientifically handled, the Palestine Year Book is the fourth production to be issued by the Institute, tackling the Palestine question in context, together with Zionist and Israeli activities during 1967 — a year that will go into Arab and world history.

The references on the June war, or as the Israelis prefer to call it, the Six Day War, are unsurpassable. They are all used by the 8 scholars who made the 1100-page book possible. These include press reports, Israeli publications issued in Hebrew, official and non-official Zionist references, and the various analytic productions that have been written on the subject.

Those who worked on the book include Dr. Baruch Dolev, Amikam Ben-Zur, Fouad J. Godey, Jannan, Amal, Walid Abu, Mohamed George Dolev, and Elias Ghannouh. Dr. Najati acted as editor.

The 1967 Palestine Year Book is divided into six parts, the first of which deals with collective Arab action before the June war, including the Arab Summit Conference, Palestinian popular and official action.

The second part of the book deals with Zionist activities all over the world while the third tackles political and social conditions in Israel. In the fourth part, the authors discuss every aspect of Israeli life and activity, including the building of the armed forces.

Well-documented maps reveal conditions on all fronts before the June war.

Palestine action on the international front is the subject of the fourth section while the

fifth section concentrates on the Palestine question at the United Nations, including the various resolutions adopted by the Security Council.

The last section of the book is dedicated to the economic and social conditions in Palestine.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the book reveals a fact that has been mentioned but not put in writing — that the June war was a one-sided battle in which the Arabs actually never participated.

The Six-Day War, according to the Palestine Year Book, was an outright accord between world opinion and the Arab world. It was a one-sided battle in which the Arabs actually never participated.

The fact comes out that the Palestine Year Book for 1967 is not just a scientific reference for any researcher and anyone interested in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Neighborhood Punishment & World Press

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
(November 12)

Israel's occupation policy has entered a new and hardened phase - with increased travel restrictions and the stepped-up punitive action of blowing up homes...

FRATTA
(November 7)

In what does the new Dayan doctrine differ from what the Fascists did in occupied territories?... Judging by everything, the present rulers of Israel have decided to follow the path of Hitlerism.

NEWSWEEK
(November 4)

And from this conviction has come an increasing tendency among the occupied Arabs to support the Palestinian commandos and local terrorists. "There is no question, admitted Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, 'The Fatah has struck roots.' It was to counter this development that the Israelis decided to adopt a policy of environmental punishment and Dayan himself traveled the occupied territories to bring the stern new message to Arab leaders. Dayan's message went like this, 'You must understand that if terrorist activity goes on, life will become unbearable for you. Your alternatives are to fight the terrorists yourselves, to denounce them and ask our help -- or to suffer.' When terrorism not only continued but increased, Israeli occupation troops went into action...

TIME
(November 21)

The houses of suspects have been destroyed, the owners exiled to Arab countries or imprisoned... under Dayan's new concept of neighborhood punishment.

THE TIMES
(November 18)

The occupation is now much harsher than it was a year ago. More people are being arrested, more houses are being demolished, the atmosphere in Gaza is even worse, and the atmosphere in Hebron is almost as bad. It is a measure of the terrorists' success. The guerrillas are getting more efficient. There is a process of natural selection as there was in Algeria and in occupied Korea. Inefficient guerrillas - the boosters, the careless - get caught or killed. The rest survive, or survive longer, and do more damage. No amount of Israeli resistance will change them. On the contrary, it will stiffen their resistance, help their recruiting.

THE ECONOMIST
(November 22)

But since cover includes declining to give information about an actual or suspected terrorist to the Israeli security forces, it is not difficult, given the circumstances of military occupation, to find a whole street, or whole village, guilty. A senior Israeli officer confirmed this week that the policy, as described by Dayan, was in confidence.

CEYLON OBSERVER
(November 20)

Right through history the civilized world has protested against the barbaric device of collective punishment. It is the inter-racial reaction of one race to the fact that the guilt of the oppressed is untenable. Records of history show it has failed in its purpose.

Abu Ammar to Palestinian Youth:

"You Are The Generation Of Victory"

Abu Ammar told a group of Palestinian teenagers Nov. 27: "We are the generation of defeat and you are the generation of victory."

The official Fatah spokesman and PLO chairman addressed the group at the opening of Fatah's first Youth Camp (page 14 to 17).

Abu Ammar said Palestinians would not lay down their arms before liberating their homeland - a mistake of 1948 must never be repeated.

Abu Ammar told the young Palestinians: "It is you who are called upon to repeat the mistakes. We are the generation of defeat and you are the generation of victory."

Abu Ammar said that if Palestinians men joined Fatah's first commandos training camp in 1968, of them, he said, "I graduated. Today, Abu Ammar went on, 'handcuffs and thousands of our people are being trashed. What has enabled us to achieve this? Determination, the determination of revolutionaries.'"

Abu Ammar explained "we do not want to create a group of fighters but a fighting population - men and women, young and old."



Palestinian Lawyer Describes Zionist Style Torture

JERUSALEM - The Israeli military occupation court in Ramallah heard how a Palestinian Arab lawyer, Basim Khairi, was tortured by Israeli security officers with two other Palestinians on charges of co-operating with commando organizations.

Lawyer Khairi told the court that he was subjected to the most violent kinds of torture physically and mentally.

He said it may sound unbelievable, but it is true.

Khairi said on the night of Feb. 11 last, he was contacted by telephone to report to the police immediately. At the police station he was kept waiting till 3:30 a.m. of the next morning when he was removed to a cell in the Ramallah prison for interrogation. Later he was taken to Jerusalem. There two Israeli officers slapped him on the face when he denied any knowledge of cooperation with the commandos. He afterwards was beaten with a whip for three hours during which his clothes were torn off and freezing water poured on him until he lost consciousness.

The next morning a third Israeli officer interrogated him. He spoke Khairi was beaten with a thick stick by the officer on his genitalia, until he lost consciousness once more. Khairi told the court that continued for 41 days he learned of

the death of a Palestinian prisoner, Kaseem Tashiri, as a result of torture and the transfer of another Palestinian detainee, Abdul Mukaleb Abu-Rasheen, to a mental hospital. Khairi also told the court that the Israeli officer pressed on his neck to force him stretch out his tongue while urine was poured on.

Khairi said that he made certain marks on the wall of the Ramallah confinement cell in which he was detained at the Ramallah Detention Camp pending his trial.

Khairi told the court that he had to sign a confession to save himself further torture but he denied any contact with commando organizations.

The trial was due to resume later this month.

SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN MOVEMENTS IN AMERICA
TUESDAY'S U.S. NEWS

CHICAGO - New Left support for the Palestinian liberation movements is causing great concern in Zionist circles.

Abel G. Jacobs, chairman of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, said in Chicago Nov. 30 that Zionists "must expect a great increase of overt anti-Israeli propaganda in America because the New Left, seeking a new cause to replace the issue of Vietnam, has found it in the identification with the Fatah movement."

He said identification of some young Jews to a movement that cites Israel as illegitimate, "has already been tremendously damaging to the cause of Israel."

Jacobs called for an "educational (anti-racism) program" to counteract the New Left stance on Israel.

Abel Jacobs said he has seen no increase in anti-Israeli feeling but that American public opinion on the "Middle East" is changing.

Abel Jacobs' views were dismissed as irrelevant by a member of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) who said:

"We're not for the extermination of Jews or the kind of things we're anti-oppressors. We oppose Israeli expansion because it oppresses the Arab people and gives U.S. imperialism a base in the Middle East."



UN Body Raps Israeli Collective Punishment

UNITED NATIONS - The U.N. Social Committee Nov. 20 adopted an urgent resolution condemning Israel's practices of collective and area punishment in occupied Palestine.

The resolution, which is expected to receive endorsement from the General Assembly later this month, was adopted by 21 votes, with 11 against and 20 abstentions.

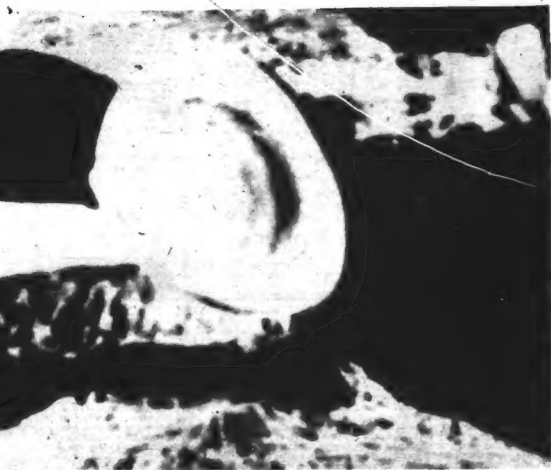
Liberia, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Israel, Bolivia, Ecuador, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uruguay opposed the resolution which "condemns such policies and practices as collective and area punishment, the destruction of homes and the deportation of the inhabitants of the Israeli occupied territories."

Palestine



Vietnam





FATEH

Palestine in Retrospect

(EDITOR'S NOTE: One might ask, why did the Zionist Jews resort to terrorist tactics to drive the Palestinians out of their homes and, when this failed, to their physical and forcible expulsion? The answer is to be found in the underlying Zionist racist objective of creating in Palestine a state which would be exclusively Jewish and exclusively Jewish. Professor Maxime Rodinson has observed that the Jewish character of the state is "the prime aim and postulate of Zionist ideology". In other words, the Zionists wanted to convert Palestine into a state for the Jews and not one also for the Arabs. The direction of this objective necessitated the displacement of the

original inhabitants and their representatives of their lands. The racial and religious exclusiveness of the Jewish state envisaged in the Zionist program had long been emphasized by Zionist leaders. The British Statement of Policy of 1922 referred to unashamed statements which had been made to the effect that the purpose of the Balfour Declaration was to create a wholly Jewish Palestine and that Palestine was to become as Jewish as England is English. Following is the full text of this British statement of Policy (The Zionist Commission Paper No.1700) also known as the "White Paper" of June, 1922 or as the Churchill Memorandum.)

What is MEANT BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE? IT MAY BE ANSWERED THAT IT IS NOT THE IMPOSITION OF A JEWISH NATIONALITY ON THE ARAB INHABITANTS OF PALESTINE AS A WHOLE, BUT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXISTING JEWISH COMMUNITIES with the assistance of Jews in other parts of the world, in order that it may become a factor in the development of the whole as a whole may take, on grounds of religion and race, an interest and a pride, and to ensure that this has the best prospect of free development and progress. It is not the duty of Jewish people to display its capacities, it is essential that it should know that it is in a position to do so, and to rely on sufficiency. That is the reason why it is necessary that the existence of a Jewish Nationality should be internationally guaranteed, and that it should be formally recognised to rest upon

ish people to live with the Arab people on terms of unity and mutual respect, and together with them to make the common home into a flourishing community, the upbuilding of which may assure to each of its peoples and undisturbed national development."

It is also necessary to point out that the Zionist Commission in Palestine, now termed the Palestine Zionist Executive, has no right to possess or share in the general administration of the country. Nor does the special position assigned to the Zionist Organisation in Article IV of the Draft Mandate for Palestine imply any such functions. That special position relates to the measures to be taken in Palestine affecting the Jewish population, and contemplates that the Organisation may assist in the general development of the country, but does not entitle it to share in any administrative functions.

Further, it is contemplated that the status of all citizens of Palestine in the eyes of the law shall be Palestinian, and it has never been intended that they, or any section of them, should possess any other juridical status.

So far as the Jewish population of Palestine are concerned, it appears that some among them are apprehensive that His Majesty's Government may depart from the policy embodied in the Declaration of 1917. It is necessary, therefore, once more to affirm that these fears are unfounded, and that the Declaration, re-affirmed by the Conference of the Principal Allied Powers at San Remo and again in the Treaty of Sevres, is not susceptible of change.

not susceptible of change. The Jews of the three generations the Jews have created in Palestine a community, now numbering 80,000, of whom about one-fourth are immigrants from Russia and Poland. This community has its own political organs; an elected assembly for the direction of its affairs; a central committee to advise in the towns; and an organization for the control of its schools. It has its elected Chief Rabbi, who is the spiritual head; a council for the direction of its religious affairs. Its business is conducted in Hebrew as a vernacular language, and a Hebrew press publishes its literature. Its distinctive intellectual life and displays considerable economic activity. This community, then, with its own political, religious and social organizations, its own language, its own customs, its own life has been

As has been represented by the Arab Delegation, that during the war His Majesty's Government had no intention of recognizing an independent national government should be at once established in Palestine. This representation was clearly recorded in a letter dated the 26th October, 1918, from Sir Henry McMahon, then British High Commissioner in Egypt, to the Sherif of Mecca, now King Hussein of the Kingdom of the Hejaz, in which he was conveying the promise to the Sherif of Mecca to recognise and support the independence of Palestine, and the reservation proposed by him. But this promise was given subject to a reservation made in the same letter, namely, that the scope, among other territories, the portions of Syria lying to the west of the district of Damascus, were deemed to have always been regarded by His Majesty's Government as comprising the villages of Beirut and Sidon, and the plain of Be'as and Hamam. The whole of Palestine west of the Jordan was not included in the promise made by Sir H. McMahon's plenipotentiary.

Nevertheless, it is the intention of his Majesty's Government to continue to support the development of a full measure of self-government in Palestine. But they are of opinion that, in the interim, the Government of the country, this should be accomplished by gradual stage and that the Government should not take upon it the responsibility of a civil administration, the so-called Advisory Council. The Council, which was established, it was stated at the time by the High Commissioner for Palestine, was intended to develop self-governing institutions, and it is now proposed that the establishment of a Legislative Council containing a large proportion of members elected by the people should be proposed in the published draft. The High Commissioner stated that three of the members of the Council would be official persons nominated by the High Commissioner, but recommended that the Government, in opposition to this provision, should be based on correct considerations, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the House of Commons, the Legislative Council would consist of the High Commissioner

lected and ten official members. The Secretary of State is of opinion that before a further measure of self-government is extended to Palestine, the Assembly must be brought under control over the Executive, if it would be wise to allow some time to elapse. During this period the institutions of the country will have become well established, its financial arrangements will be based on firm foundations, and the Palestinian officials will have been enabled to gain experience of sound management of government. After a few years the institutions will be again reviewed, and if the experience of the working of the constitution now to be established so warranted, a larger share of authority would be conferred on the elected representatives of the people.

The Secretary of State would point out that already the present Administration has transferred to the State Department the functions of the Commission elected by the Moslem community of Palestine the autonomous control of Moslem religious endowments (Wakfs), and of the Moslem religious courts, by which this Commission has been able to have also voluntarily restored considerable revenues derived from ancient endowments which had been sequestered by third parties. The State Department is also advised by a committee representative of all sections of the population, and the Department is also advised by a committee representative of the Moslems, for the benefit of the cooperation of the Chambers of Commerce which have been established in the principal centres. It is the intention of the Administration to associate in an increased degree similar representative committees with the various Departments of the Government.

the Secretary of State believes that a policy upon these lines, coupled with the maintenance of the fullest religious liberty in Palestine and with a free community regard for the rights of each community, will render it to the Holy Places, cannot but commend itself to the various sections of the population, and that upon this basis may be built up that spirit of co-operation upon which the future progress and prosperity of the Holy Land must largely depend.

PALE

Letter To Nixon

Palestine Was Never A Desert

Allegations on "Palestine as a desert" made by Israeli Premier Mrs. Golda Meir during her September visit to Washington were refuted by Palestinian women under the Israeli occupation.

In a message to President

Nixon sent to the U.S. Congress General Ismail Abu-Jarrah, the women's message which was received in Jordan Nov. 18 read as follows:

To Mr. Nixon, President of the United States of America.

Dear Sir:

We do not aspire to have the honor of addressing the president of the United States of America at a state dinner reception; nevertheless we do hope that the same person who showed all that concern to Mrs. Golda Meir would do the like to us, Palestinian women, whose untold problem causes unhappiness in the Middle East.

In her speech, Mrs. Meir ruled on the question of the debt Israel and the whole world owe to the six million Jews who went to gas chambers in Europe—center of culture. The whole world seemed to compete in purging itself of a great sin.

The question was, people of Palestine, want to raise in this connection is: "At whose expense?" One cannot comprehend how the conscience of the world can allow for such a high price of injustice. One and a half million Arab Palestinians, a whole people, were so brutally uprooted from this country in 1948. The same tragedy was repeated in 1967 with another half of the remnants of this miserably destroyed nation.

Mrs. Meir talks so proudly of the faith and hope that her people held for two thousand years. One wonders why such faith and hope is denied to a people whose memory of their home and lands is but twenty years of age. Mrs. Meir should know and the whole world should know that Palestinians have nowhere to go to occupy Palestine. Therefore, they have chosen to fight and fight it out and win. They have no alternative, for when the Deobars of the Twentieth century talks of peace, she thinks of the peace that guarantees all the securities to the "state of Israel"—expanding a mere home to the scattered persecuted Jews of a criminal world—and overlooks

the rights of the other people who lived in Palestine for thousands of years. Such a petty peace can never stand at the test of time.

Mrs. Meir commits a gross falsity when she pictures Palestine as a DESERT where nothing has blossomed for hundreds and hundreds of years. Our humble answer, which contradicts her statement, lies in the following quotation that comes from the diary of Sir Moses Montefiore, a Jew and a notorious pioneer in the Zionist movement, under the heading "Shed, May 24th, 1839": "There are groves of live-trees I should think more than five hundred years old, vineyards, much pasture, plenty of wells; also fig trees, walnuts, almonds, mulberries etc., and rich fields of wheat, barley and lentils; in fact it is a land that would produce almost everything in abundance, with very little cultivation."

We hope this is a convincing evidence of the greenness of Palestine and that it offers any chance to "make the desert bloom."

Ironically enough Palestinians had the opportunity to visit their usurped homes, groves and lands after the June 1967 conflict, and they saw with their own eyes what destruction and havoc has been created over the past twenty years. We quote here what an American author has to say about this:

"The Israeli side of Jerusalem has many things to boast of, and the Ministry of Tourism tries to see that no visitor misses them: The Knesset, I saw most of these, and I saw things which the Ministry of Tourism would just assume I had not

seen. Hillsides which her contractors had been cultivated and sown by Arabs, turned into a desert since 1968. The Israelis had neither knowledge nor inclination to preserve the olive trees and vineyards, and I saw hundreds of acres of crumbling terraces, dried vines, dying trees. It would be impossible to cultivate these terraces by machine, and in modern Israel, economically unsound to cultivate them in ancient way.

"And so the terraces piled up. The Arabs, who belonged to the land and loved as only peasants can love it, were driven from it, and Israel plowed no more. Israel grants to fill their places. Israel, to prove that the land belongs to him who makes the most use of it, introduced modern agricultural methods and in certain places has made the 'desert bloom.' Many of the new places of Israel, the Golan Heights and the plain Sharon, for example—were fertile to begin with. They had been cultivated for centuries by Arabs before Israel brought in tractors, Pa-

lestin's most productive areas are now a part of Israel."

"Tourists cannot help noting the difference. This is what Israel has done, they are told. 'And there you see what the Arabs did.' It is not pointed out that Jews had orange groves by Arabs, or that every olive tree and vineyard was originally Arab-owned. Israel has only redecorated what we Arabs built. I heard one woman remark bitterly."

Mr. President

This is our tragic story. We feel so bitter that the whole world looks at us in order not to see the most rotting of the injustice done to us, people of Palestine. It is high time for the conscience of the world to wake up and do something to bring the joy and the songs to the hearts of our miserable children. They also have the right to live. At the same time, it is high time for the mothers the dread of losing their children on the battlefield.

GAZA — Four Palestinians in Gaza were given terms of 5 to 20 years jail Nov. 24 by a Zionist military court. The accused city "for acts of resistance last year."

Mohammed Mustafa, 25, and Dab Abdul-Khalil, 24, received 20 years each on minor charges. Mohammed Salim Abu Shitri, 25, received seven years, and Mohammed Barakat, five years, for helping set up weapons caches in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier on Nov. 24, another Zionist court in Jerusalem sentenced a Palestinian town leader to nine months for reportedly aiding the accused killed of a collaborator.

The court martial Sheikh Mohammed Jihad Thabet of occupied Shuja, near Ramallah, had the gas used to kill Taysser Lord had killed an Israeli guard and wounded another. The Israeli occupation authorities used gas to storm the house. An arms store was reportedly found in the house.

Part of the town was put under curfew, and house-to-house searches were then made. Zionist occupation authorities used the incident to make more than a hundred Palestinian arrests in the Gaza area alone.

Palestinian Forced To March 150 Km.

AMMAN — A Palestinian student said Nov. 23 that the Israelis dumped him in the Weger desert and told him to walk to Jordan after they failed in an attempt to convert him to the normal way. The student said Mustafa Awami, told a press conference that he and three others walked aimlessly for about 150 kilometers (about 90 miles), sometimes through minefields, before they reached Jordanian territory and reached Amman.

He said he was among 15 Palestinians and their families who were turned back by the Jordanians when the Israeli occupation authorities tried to expel them from occupied territory on Nov. 18.

The 10-year-old student from Huzran said he and his three fellows were then taken to Jericho prison and on to a desert region north of the Israeli port of Haifa, where they were left on Nov. 18.

"We were told we would be shot if we turned our heads,"

The student, who arrived in Amman with the three other deportees Saturday night, Nov. 23, said he had been arrested three times before and had been held and tortured for the last six months on charges of belonging to Fatah and instigating students to strike at his school.

Jordanian Shepherds Kidnapped & Killed By Israel

UNITED NATIONS — Jordan accused Israel Nov. 23 of the murder of four Jordanian shepherds and the kidnapping of a fifth on Nov. 24.

In a letter to the Security Council President, Ambassador Mohamed Fatta of Jordan said Israel had committed new acts of piracy and promoted murder against innocent Jordanian citizens.

The letter said as Israeli patrol attacked six Jordanian shepherds, killing four of them and kidnapping a fifth. The sixth shepherd escaped.

Ambassador Fatta said this was the second such criminal act in a week.

Palestinian Red Crescent Introduced

TEL AVIV — Internal sources revealed Dec. 1 that Israel sustained 97 casualties during the month of November alone.

The sources listed Israeli casualties on all fronts and inside occupied territory as follows: 23 soldiers and one civilian killed and 23 soldiers and 11 civilians wounded.

ISRAEL TO CENSOR PALESTINIAN MAIL

JERUSALEM — Mail and other written material passing into occupied territory is to be brought under Israeli military censorship, an occupation army spokesman said here Nov. 23.

The spokesman said the mail might be "exploited to pass military information abroad or bring in orders to 'sabotage' groups."

Yasser Arafat official spokesman said the chairman of Palestine Liberation Organization introduced in a booklet the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) as an official organization of PLO.

The society established in 1968 has branches in Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Republic, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Algeria, Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

Arafat said the PRCS is authorized to offer first aid, medical and humanitarian assistance to Palestinian Arabs in every field.

The society will conduct its duties in accordance with the Geneva Convention and the declaration of the Human Rights, Arafat said.

He depicted Dr. Mahmoud Hilani as the secretary to sign the agreement of the International Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to Hilani, the so-

ciety has formed four committees to pursue its objectives, these are: the Executive Committee, responsible for the organization and coordination of all activities; the Medical Committee responsible for providing medical and first-aid; the Social Affairs Committee, responsible for providing the conditions of refugees and displaced persons, opening rehabilitation centers and obtaining all possible assistance to the families of the wounded and prisoners; the Information Committee responsible for publicizing the conditions of refugees and displaced persons, opening rehabilitation centers and obtaining all possible assistance to the families of the wounded and prisoners; the Information Committee responsible for publicizing the conditions of refugees and displaced persons, opening rehabilitation centers and obtaining all possible assistance to the families of the wounded and prisoners.

Medical centers are already providing free medical care to about 30,000 persons each month.

Dr. Hilani stated that the PRCS has taken part as an observer in the regional conference of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Red scimitars in the Middle East and North Africa held in Kuwait in January 1968, and attended as an active member

the conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies held in Cairo in 1968.

The PRCS has been created to fulfill an urgent humanitarian need and to fill a gap for humanitarian help urgently felt among Pa-

lestinian concentrations. It is also cooperating with other humanitarian organizations to help against the inhuman treatment being exercised by the Zionist authorities in occupied territory.



Eye-witness in Gaza

IN GAZA this week, the market price for grenade throwers—men not machines—is Israeli pounds, or 15,000. At this cut-price, they function more days than not. More days than not, the Israeli troops pick them up, unopened, and stuff them in their shirt fronts. The grenade boys usually harm more of their compatriots than Israelis. They have established a strong claim to being the most inefficient—as well as the cheapest—hired guns of modern times.

Even so, their maladroitness has achieved something, perhaps even their masters' aim: in this they have been aided by Major-General Moshe Dagan. His policy of collective punishment, or let us call it reprisal, for what it means, has driven the uncommitted among the Arabs in Israel—and they did once enlist—into the arms of the 100 per cent. pro-Israel hater. Between them they have turned this place, which at best was a univocal armistice of the Middle East, into a city as menacing and as terrified as Saigon after the Tet offensive. Here, indifferent Israeli conscripts were shooting at heads moving in the windows in the street of Omar El Mukhtar, when there was a bang, groups of tiny uniformed schoolgirls scurried past the town hall like so many terrified black rabbits. Private houses were destroyed to encourage the others, and the biggest high school was closed to make an army camp. Effectively, this Arab town of more than 80,000 was under siege.

The terrorists, by means of their 150,000 live, hired boys, have bravely achieved their aim: to alienate the population and their occupiers. There are consequently Israeli officers there who adore all Gaza's ills to terrorism. They talk of "last summer" with a certain lyricism. They say next summer, the Dagan plan has eliminated the terrorists, could be as happy.

BUT was last summer so good? One observer, and he was there where terrorism was making young soldiers trigger-happy, found conditions unacceptable even then. It is reasonable to ask whether what is happening now is a product of what was done then.

He is an observer worth listening to because, apart from anything else, he is an Israeli, by education and by temperament even a Zionist, and what he found.

The first thing was hunger. Listening to his period of reserve duty on the Gaza Strip, he described later the period as "horrible three weeks of my life" he was approached by Arab soldiers who were "stealing" work all day, he says, for leftovers from Israel's army, or even waste food which the Israeli army dumps in plastic bags.

During his service he visited two hospitals where, parents, especially mothers, were, according to the staff, in the habit of stealing food from the men and tried to give it to their children. This was one of his milder allegations, and one which is consistent to contrast several neutral health workers in the area said that they had often seen this happen. Indeed, as long as they were assured their names would not be mentioned, they said they had come to find it quite normal.

Moshe Dagan, Israel's famous Defence Minister, said himself last spring in a recorded interview that hunger conditions in some parts of the Gaza Strip were unacceptable, and that Israel's prestige in the world. But there is no source, apart from this, unimpeachable, or any method which occupying forces

ON OCTOBER 28, *The London Times* published an article by its foreign editor, E.C. Hodgkin, which was headlined: "Grim reports of repression from Israel-occupied lands." (Which we reprinted in our November 10 issue) It described how Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territory were "being persecuted into a new diaspora by the armies and people of Israel." This article caused an international furor. Many instances of repression reported in it have been strenuously denied by the Israeli authorities.

The editorial operations of the *Sunday Times* are quite independent of those of the *Times*. And it so happens that more than a week before *The Times*' article appeared, the *Sunday Times* had been entirely separately approached by an Israeli citizen with an account of conditions in one of the Israel-administered territories—the Gaza Strip. The account comes from a long and detailed statement which he gave the *Sunday Times* and to which he swore on oath. The reporter who was chosen to check the informant's statement was DAVID LEITCH. He has been visiting Israel, for which he has a deep sympathy and affection, at intervals since 1983. Now here is his report, which we reprint from the *Sunday Times* of Nov. 23.



Curfew time on the Gaza Strip... and Arabs are rounded up for searching

are reported to have used last summer against the occupied.

He saw, and heard from fellow soldiers, how the authorities treated Gaza Arabs, month after month. Israeli officers began to talk about "environmental, or neighbourhood punishment."

The first approach involved arbitrary curfews of the kind recently used as a reprisal against terrorism in the village of Beit Sabar, near Hebron, among other places. The inhabitants are forbidden to leave their homes for almost the whole 24 hours; they can go out to get food and water for perhaps two hours a day. As Arab homes in Gaza are usually tiny, have no sewage or running water, and are sometimes shared with livestock, this is a severe punishment.

This witness says that such curfews were imposed against small villages at random, even when there had been no acts of terrorism. He claims the reaction of his friends was to wonder why only the women were kept indoors.

In the tougher cases, the same curfew was applied, but only the women were kept indoors. The men were driven into the desert by trucks and sometimes beaten up on the way. When they arrived at an isolated spot they were divided according to age into two groups. They were then forced to sleep in their hampers in the sun under guard for several hours — he says for as long as eight hours at a time.

There were also harsher measures which the witness says were common knowledge among soldiers serving on the Strip this summer, but which he never witnessed himself. He

says that during a coffee party in his tent (the Israeli army is dry) half a dozen soldiers told him the best way to combat terrorism was to treat suspects lightly with electric wire on arms and legs, and leave them in the sun.

These were not young soldiers telling tall stories, he says, but mature reservists chatting unemotionally without even much terrorism was to treat suspects lightly with electric wire on arms and legs, and leave them in the sun.

These were not young soldiers telling tall stories, he says, but mature reservists chatting unemotionally without even much terrorism was to treat suspects lightly with electric wire on arms and legs, and leave them in the sun.

On the other hand, an Arab professional man—he is under no duress to do so—has told me similar stories in the last weeks, but even President Hasser could not get them from witnesses. They were vague on details. They were carried away by their own rhetoric (which was altered through an interpreter) and they were too poor to say which professions gave a similar account. And this was, also, largely confirmed, in the course of a series of extremely guarded interviews with some international workers in the area, most of whom are conscripted, slave all, to avoid offending the occupying authorities.

Moreover they are frankly terrified that any statement of this kind will be used to prevent them from continuing all kinds of essential services.

All of these witnesses, some of whom have spoken at first hand, and others only through hearsay, must be treated with some reserve. But the Israeli soldier, I believe, is in a different category.

He is not only a Jew; he is a devout one. He has served in the Israeli army during two wars. He is a highly educated man, and indeed one of some distinction in the Israeli army. He knows people, Israelis like himself, who have told me very similar stories. Finally, this man, who, it should be said, is unlikely to be a detailed statement which is in the possession of the *Sunday Times*.

The evidence is by no means conclusive, it does, at its best, establish a prime focus case for some kind of independent inquiry. And it is not the only evidence.

The next set of statements, which deal with Arab detention in Israel, fall into much the same category. They have been obtained from both Arab and Israeli lawyers, and are based on documents, statements and court transcripts. I have selected four examples which are, in various ways, typical.

It should be possible, given time, to add about 40 more. But the following are in themselves sufficient to warrant an inquiry. These examples all involve what amounts to torture.

For historical reasons which do not require emphasis this is a subject which is highly sensitive in Israel. It is hard to believe that a government based on all kinds of human rights is prepared to make these

methods an instrument of policy. Are the allegations true or not? At least it seems that if an independent group could decide. But, again, the evidence is not enough in itself to cause great concern.

The evidence of Lutfiel El Houari

THIS FIRST statement comes from a woman and, it should be said, a damned tough one. She is called Lutfiel El Houari, she is 55, and she was arrested in August this year in Ramallah. The charges against her were numerous: being a member of an unlawful organisation and attempted murder were the most serious.

According to her prosecutors, and their case has not been contradicted with any conviction, on June 1982, the second anniversary of the outbreak of the Six-Day War—and four girlfriends dispatched a bottle of poisoned whisky to a Palestinian friend, whom they regarded as collaborators.

She confessed to most of the charges against her, on November 4 before a military court in Ramallah. Her lawyers claimed her statements had been extracted through torture and that this was the only way she happened.

She was taken to Beit Shimon, an interrogated for 15 days. During this period she was held in solitary confinement, with both wrists and feet handcuffed. She says her interrogators, threatened her with the same punishment that she had received a year earlier while under administrative arrest.

Then, she says, she was put in the same cell as a group of Jewish prostitutes mostly from the West Bank. They attacked her and were encouraged to do so by the guards. She says that during her solitary confinement she was prevented from using the lavatory, and that this was particularly painful for her as she was convalescing from an operation for appendicitis at the time of her arrest.

She also claims that police or soldiers (she is not sure) threatened that her house would be destroyed if she refused to confess. Eventually she did, but the house was blown up anyway. Miss Houari has given many more details of her alleged ill-treatment to her lawyer, who has made an official report, so far without response.

The evidence of Ikhak Ali El Marari

IKHAK ALI EL MARARI was arrested in July 1982 in Jerusalem. After two months of interrogation, he was charged with being a member of an illegal organisation. Interestingly, though he is still in prison, the charges against him were dropped on July 1983.

He says, and I have seen his statement, that he had been so badly treated during the interrogation period, that the marks would have been visible in his skin.

His story, which is similar to that of Lutfiel El Houari, is being beaten on the hands with a stick, and of being denied food and water for long periods until he had made a full confession.

In his statement, which his lawyer sent on September 1982, he asked to be released without reaction — to Israel's Attorney General, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister responsible for police.

On the other hand, the Minister (he is called Marcus) who directed the interrogation, said that he would be in the law, again to no effect, requested as (Continued on page 11)



Palestinian Commando To His Gaolers:

"I Came To Win Back My Homeland"

TEL AVIV — "I came to fight so as to win back my homeland, Palestine."

This is what 30 year old Ghannu Mohammed El-Haj Hilar Abdullah told the Israeli military judge in occupied Nabulus who sentenced him Dec. 3 to life imprisonment.

The Zionist prosecutor described Abdullah as a Fatah commando who had served at al-Karama and trained in China. The prosecutor did not conceal the fact that the man was detained for four months before being brought to trial.

When the military judge asked him if he pleaded guilty or not, Abdullah told the court, "It is true that I infiltrated, I came to fight so as to win back my homeland — Palestine."

Other members of his unit were recently sentenced to life imprisonment at a separate hearing.

In another Zionist trial at occupied Nabulus five young persons pleaded not guilty to shooting dead three collaborators.

The five also denied throwing dead grenades in Nabulus.

Their trial will continue "early next year."

Earlier two Palestinians had been arrested on suspicion of having laid explosives near the stop on July 13 and another on a Tel Aviv beach in August.

About Karim Shiri, Abu Shaleh, 35, and his brother Ibrahim, 17, were reportedly arrested on charges of having laid an explosive charge near the stop on July 13 and another on a Tel Aviv beach in August.

On Dec. 3, another three Palestinians were given life sentences by Zionist military court for commando activities in the Jerusalem area earlier this year.

The prosecutor told Lydia military court Dec. 1 that the

three men — Ahmad Rasouf Tawmeh, Mahmoud Hassan Amira and Yousef Ahmad Mousa Amira — had thrown grenades, set fire to stores and blew up railway lines.

Two other members of the group — Mohammed Abdullah Asir and Hamdi Ali Mahirich — were killed, on the same charges, for 35 and 18 years respectively.

At Ramallah three other Palestinians were sentenced by a military court to terms of 30 to 35 years imprisonment on charges of armed infiltration, membership of an outlawed organization and illegal detention of weapons.

Mahmoud Basha, 31, and Maswood Said al-Haj Timotea, 15, The prosecutor told the court that the accused had set up commando bases in the Jerusalem area.

Four Palestinians in Gasa were also given terms of 10 to 30 years jail Nov. 26 by a Zionist military court in the occupied city "for acts of resistance last year."

Mahmud Mustafa Mhd, 18, and Diab Abdel-Khader, 26, received 30 years each on missa laying charges. Mahmoud Salama Abu Shihri, 45, received seven years, and Mohammed Charif, five years, for helping set up weapons caches.

Earlier on Nov. 24, another Zionist court in Jerusalem sentenced a Palestinian townsman to nine months for reportedly aiding the accused killer of a collaborator.

The court was told Sheikh Mohammed Jodeh Thabet of occupied Shabab, near Ramallah, hid the gun used to kill Tayseer Louzi last August. Accused of killing Tayseer Louzi is Abdullah Omran.

Sheikh Thabet's house was blown up by Israeli troops a

month ago after his arrest. Four other houses of Palestinians Arabs in the village of Beit Fajar, near Bethlehem, were also blown up during the week by Zionist occupation troops following the arrest of their owners.

Washington's new policy of allowing Americans citizens to be conscripted in the Israeli army while retaining U.S. nationality under a new interpretation of dual citizenship leaked last October 14 through the State Department to Tel Aviv.

The State Department in turn acknowledged the "new interpretation" on Oct. 17 through its official spokesman, Robert Z. McGee.

McGee admitted most of the

independent medical examination and access to the prisoner's medical files. These are probably easily available because, after U.S. intervention, Mr. Marari was treated in the prison hospital at Ramleh.

He says his most serious injury was a head wound, and he also complains of defects in vision as a result of his treatment during interrogation, and recurring headaches.

His case is particularly interesting because, unlike most detainees who allege torture, there seems to be no convincing evidence, or indeed evidence of any kind, that he was involved in terrorist activities.

He admits a connection with a nationalist front organization, but says he was only concerned with aiding the families of people who had been arrested. He may, of course, be lying, but unless there are statements suggesting the contrary, to which I have not had access, there appears to be no hard evidence against him. This does not mean under the system of administrative imprisonment which is now widely used that there is anything to prevent his receiving a prison for an indefinite period.

The evidence of Abdullah Yusuf Oduan

SIMILARITIES can be found in the story of Mr. Abdullah Yusuf Oduan. The allegations of torture methods are much the same, though he claims three different interrogators.

Mr. Oduan is, I understand, a Communist Party member, though this is not an offence in Israel, which has two Communist parties with parliamentary representation. By a nice international irony, he has already served a long term in a Jordanian prison for being a Communist.

He says the Israelis acquired his Jordanian files when they occupied the West Bank, and picked him up as a result. He also says that Israeli interrogators assured him they would do a much better — which in this case means more brutal — job than their counterparts in the Hashemite Kingdom. Though his lawyer, an American

US-Israeli Dual Citizenship Helps Immigration To Israel

TEL AVIV — Zionist immigration officials said here Nov. 30 that almost 10,000 U.S. citizens had been granted dual American-Israeli citizenship have done away with serious obstacles to immigration of U.S. Jews to Israel, even though they stirred up fierce Palestinian and Arab reaction.

The head of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel said many potential U.S. immigrants who had hesitated to settle in Israel for fear of losing U.S. citizenship, could now immigrate to the Zionist settlement of Israel.

"American settlers can now participate in all phases of Israeli life, social, political, business and defense, without endangering their American citizenship rights," Eli Kalin, president of AACI, told a news conference.

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the Americans serving in Israel had dual Israeli-American citizenship and were conscripted into military service in Israel.

The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv made the Oct. 14 disclosure in response to a question by a United Press International reporter concerning an article in the Tel Aviv newspaper, Davar, dealing with dual citizenship. According to the "new interpretation," the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv said "Americans could now become citizens of Israel and serve in the Israeli armed forces without losing their U.S. citizenship. Of course, fighting against the United States would lose a man his citizenship, but that hardly applies here (in Israel)."

The State Department admitted Oct. 17 that "increasing numbers" have been called up recently from the class of dual American and Israeli nationals for Israeli military service. It said, however, that "increasing numbers" said it "did not encourage" U.S. citizens to join the Zionist army.

On Nov. 14, the AACI official Jerome C. Bachrach brushed aside the State Department's statement that "increasing numbers" said it "did not encourage" U.S. citizens to join the Zionist army. He termed this "a matter of American diplomacy only"

Eyewitness (Cont'd)

ber 11 of this year, he submitted various allegations of ill-treatment by the relevant authorities. By the middle of November, there had been no response.

The evidence of Abdel Rahim Gaber

A FULLY PAID-UP 100 per cent terrorist, Abdel Rahim Amin Gaber made similar allegations. He is serving a life sentence for terrorist activities, including planting a bomb at a bus station in Tel Aviv in 1966. Presumably he knows the risk. He was prepared to pay the price.

He claims to have served a longer period of solitary confinement than most of the other prisoners whose file I have seen.

But, if one can believe the statements of prisoners, there is little distinction between the treatment of an avowed terrorist, and a suspect. A lawyer, an Israeli who handles cases of this kind, told me his experience suggests 80 per cent of the prisoners are tortured during interrogation if what they say is true.

BUT IS IT? Prisoners, Communist Party members, men who have picked up a gun on the street after a grenade has gone off, are clearly not the best witnesses of their own experience. Unfortunately, given the present system, what they say cannot be verified, or contradicted.

Almost all allegations cover the period immediately after arrest. The suspect has not yet graduated to the comparatively enviable status of prisoner — that is, someone detained inside an official Israeli prison with certain rights.

I have heard complaints about prison standards but, compared with those leveled against police and military intelligence during the interrogation period, they are not so trivial. The worst is the right to work.

The prevailing system makes it particularly hard to check. The legal code which interrogates Arabs in the occupied areas, and within Israel as it existed before the six-day war, is supposed to be utterly illiberal than those on the receiving end have always complained on their side. Anyone

can be arrested, restricted to a room or area, and kept in prison for an indefinite period without any charge. The authorities can refuse to grant bail, or they cannot. It depends on how they feel.

The system is disgraceful. For the British, who feel moral obligations to the Arabs, it is to face with an approach appropriate to alien, the only reaction is to bear witness to the horror, worth bearing in mind that the British themselves are responsible for the great ACI official.

It is based, very largely, on the 14 chapters and 170 articles of the 1948 Emergency Defence Laws which the British introduced under their mandate to deal with Jewish terrorism. Stern though the provisions were, they failed. Passionately, though Israeli jurists condemned them at the time as a contradiction of the most fundamental principles of justice, they have, with certain amendments, been carefully preserved.

The best objective witnesses of the system are the men in Israel's detention centres are members of the International Committee of the Red Cross. For various reasons, they cannot visit the centres. But, if true, one way or the other, if they confirm bad stories they are not likely to be believed. They deny them, the Israelis will exploit their statements.

As Israel refuses to accept the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention which apply to the occupied territories, Red Cross delegates have no access to the detention centres. The detention centres where prisoners are kept after arrest — that is, they are not in Israeli confinement.

If the representatives side torture charges are phony — their criteria are phony — the prisoners can make a report. These reports are strictly secret. They are not published. The system does not prejudice the job which Red Cross delegates would do within defined limits, as it is not permitted to do.

Many observers believe that the Israelis, if they wish to demonstrate the treatment of their prisoners, should either give the Red Cross more facilities, or they should have a group look for themselves.

